

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 24, 2005. Claims 1-7 and 13-19 are presented for examination, with claim 8 having been previously canceled. Claims 9-12 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into claim 1, the only independent claim; without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2-6, 10-12, and 14-19 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the recitation of allowable claims 10-12 and intervening claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 and 9-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese reference JP-07-005609 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,034,578 (Lauterwark).¹

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-19 over the cited references; however, to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has, as noted above, canceled claims 9-12 and has amended independent claim 1 to recite the limitations of the canceled claims 9-12. Accordingly, claim 1, as well as the claims dependent thereon, are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A favorable disposition to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning this submission, or any aspect of the application, she is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Applicant believes the Office Action contains a typographical error in identifying the Lauterwald patent, and that the correct patent number is 5,034,578.